

Please stop dishonesty and misrepresentation in phone bills. I am writing in support of the long overdue petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format. Many consumers feel as I do -- bled to death by junk fees and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read, and easy to understand. Instead, the long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states in doing more. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.